GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:708
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE PENAL CODE
MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have condu~ted a comprehensive Studyregarding Judicial Administrative Penal Code and the existing system of legal procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government and judiciary thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give the judiciary a new look by streamlining the judicial process to make it affordable for common man in order to make it popular; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI)

(a) & (b): No Sir, However, the Ministry of Home Affairs have constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Justice Shri V.S. Malimath to recommend,. comprehensive changes in the eXisting Criminal Justice System.

(c) & (d) Both Government and judiciary are concerned with streamlining the judicial system of the country. This is an on going and continuous process. Govermttent has been taking a series of steps `to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of recoinmendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Steps hav`e been taken to diSPose` of petty offences `like traffic cases through appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. These are being extended to cover public utilities. Extensive amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 have been brought into force w.e.f. 1st July 2002 which, inter-alia, include fixing of time frame at various stages of suit, taking evidence through commissions, restriction of adjournments to three to a party in a suit and delivery of judgement within 60 days after hearing. Efforts are also being made to improve the infrastructure of all courts including the District courts through extensive use of infonna,!~on technology to speed up. the delivery of justice. and improve access to courts through the use of e-mail and internet.

The enquiry/facilitation centres haye been set. up in the Supreme Court and most of the .High Courts. A pilot project is being implemented in four major metro cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai with facility for electronic filing of cases aDd retrieval of copies of court orders through the Internet. The project will. develop the facility to enable parties to know the status of their cases through internet.